

# **Senate Bill 123**

## **A process and implementation evaluation**

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# Three *Simple* Questions

- 1) Are SB 123 clients receiving appropriate treatment and supervision?
- 2) Is the design of SB 123 effective at promoting inter-agency interactions?
- 3) Is there a significant association between SB 123 processes and outcomes?

# *A simple methodology*

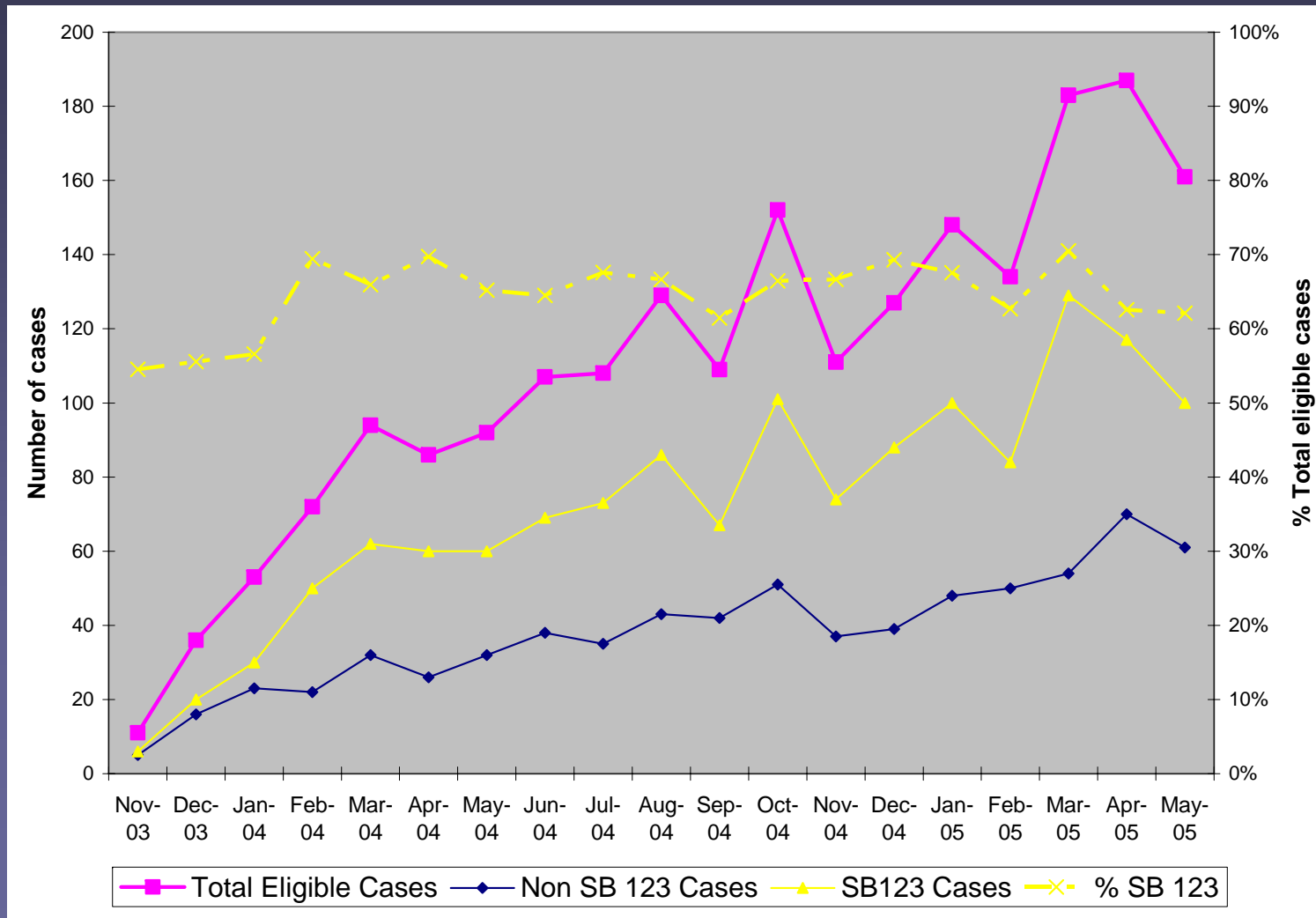
Administrative records of all SB 123-eligible cases  
between Nov 03 and May 05

Interviews with heads of Community Corrections  
and Service Providers

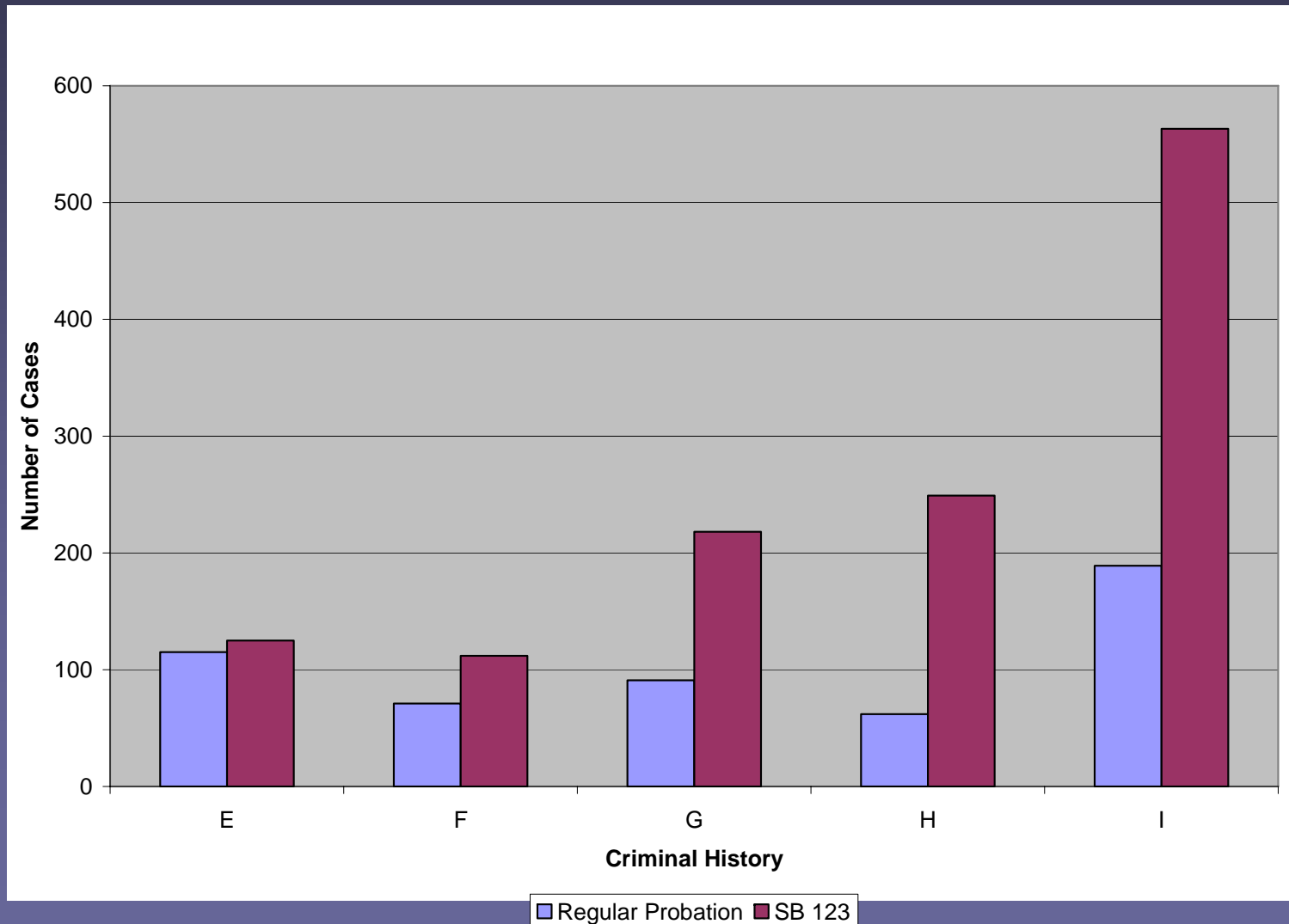
Focus groups/mail-in surveys for Probation  
Officers and Treatment Counselors

Field visits and informal interviews with staff

# SB 123 sentences have remained relatively stable

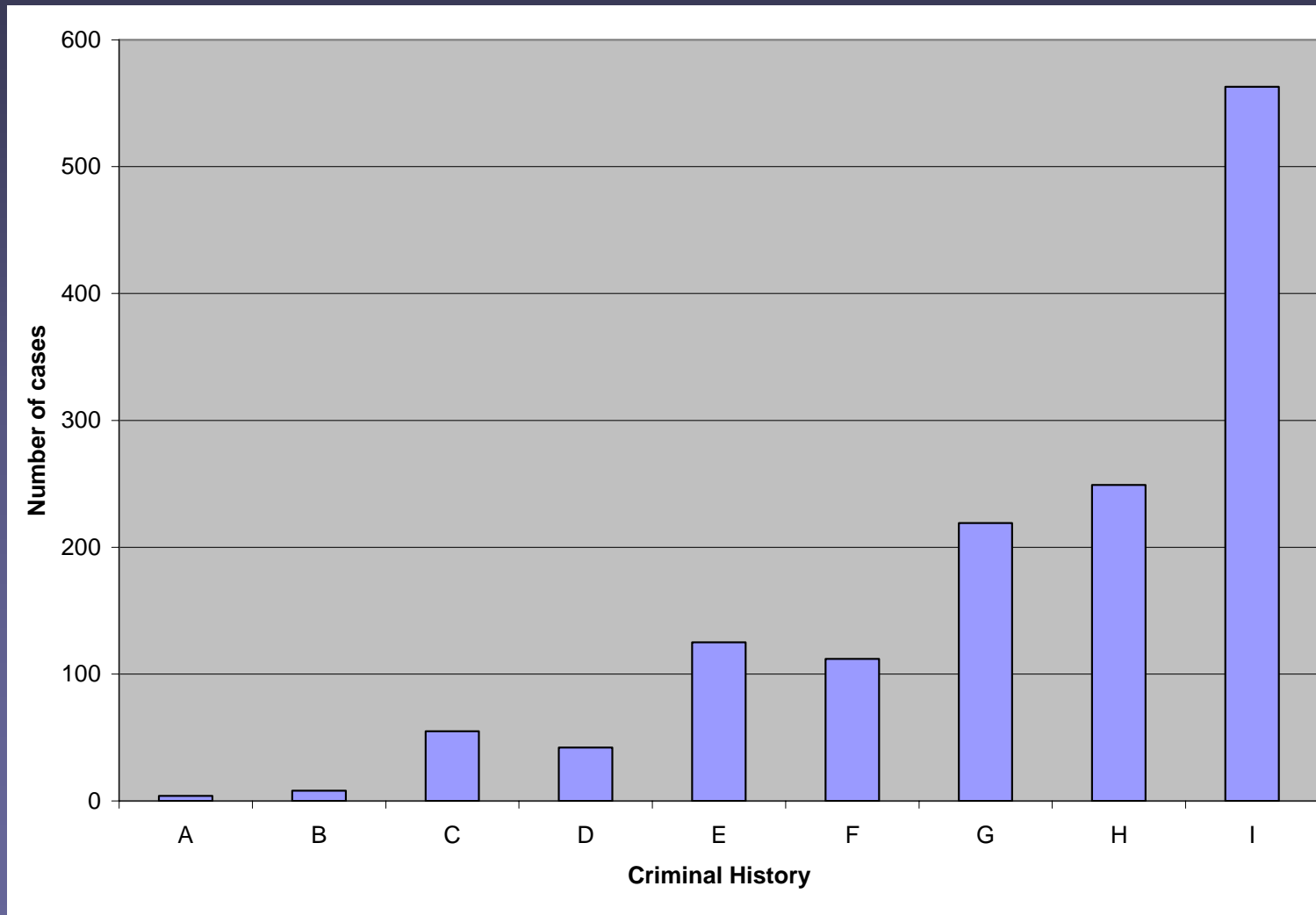


# SB 123 clients are different than other SB 123-eligible drug offenders on probation

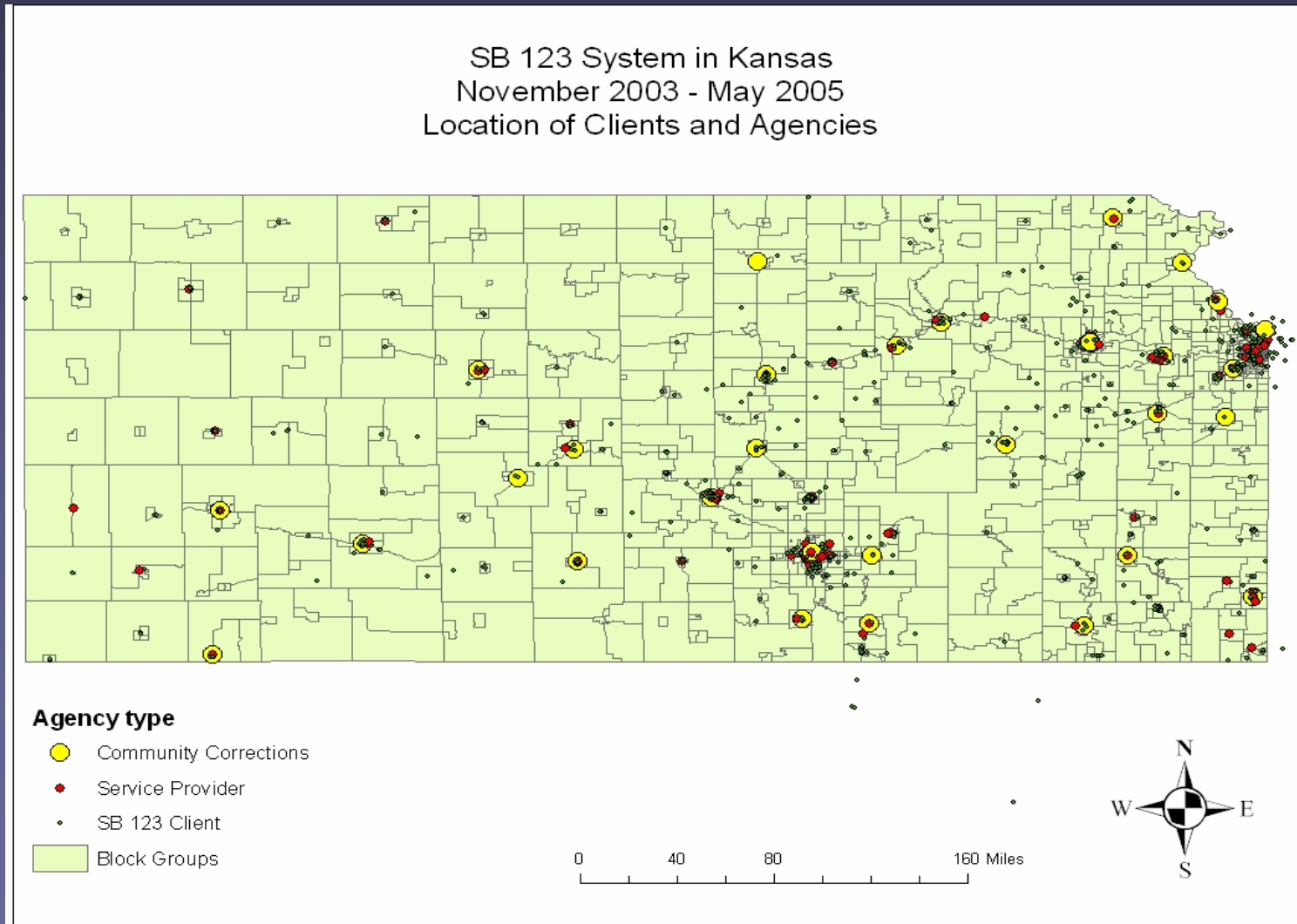


# The population served by SB 123 includes relatively serious offenders

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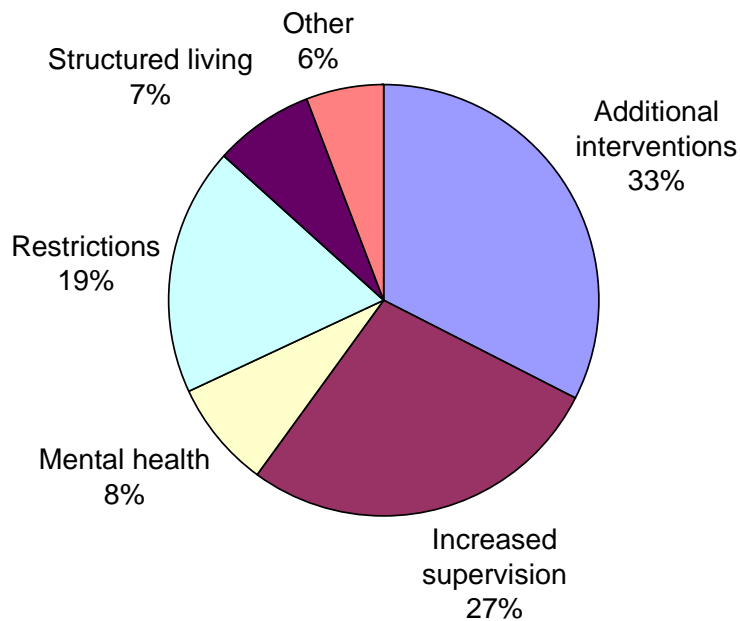
# Regional differences impact the nature of judicial processes



# Balancing interventions for treatment and supervision

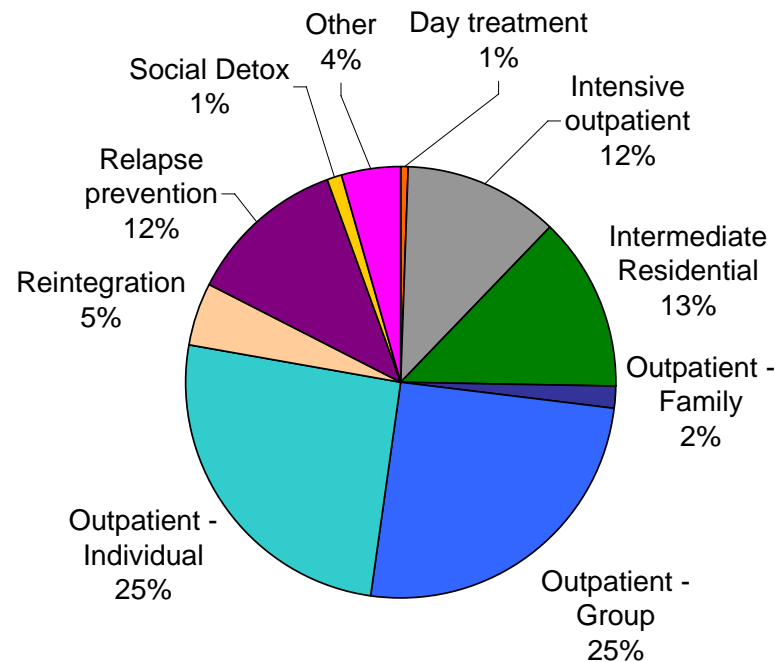
## Supervision interventions

N=1,637



## Treatment interventions

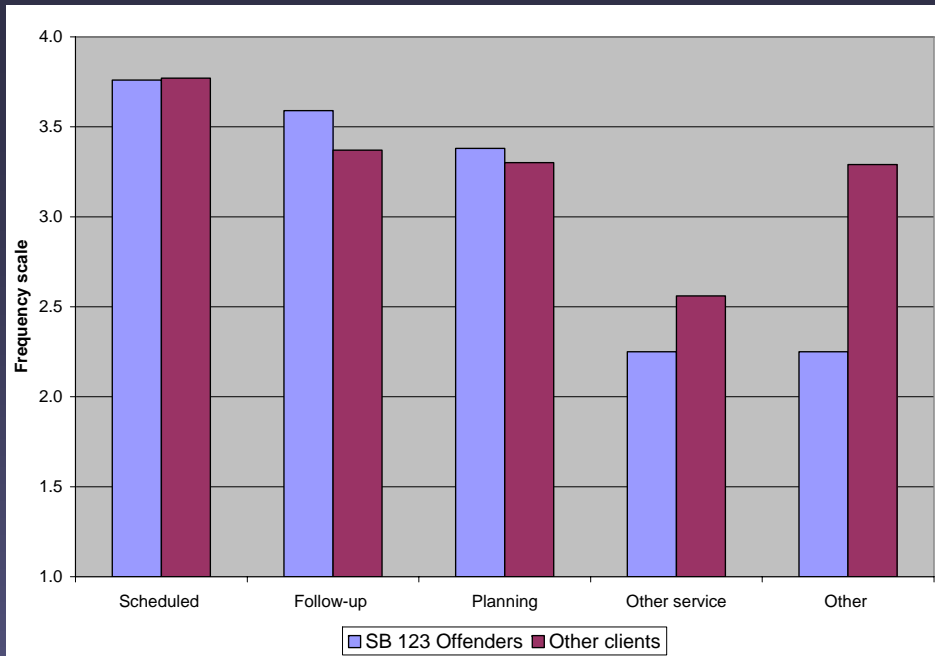
N=6,612



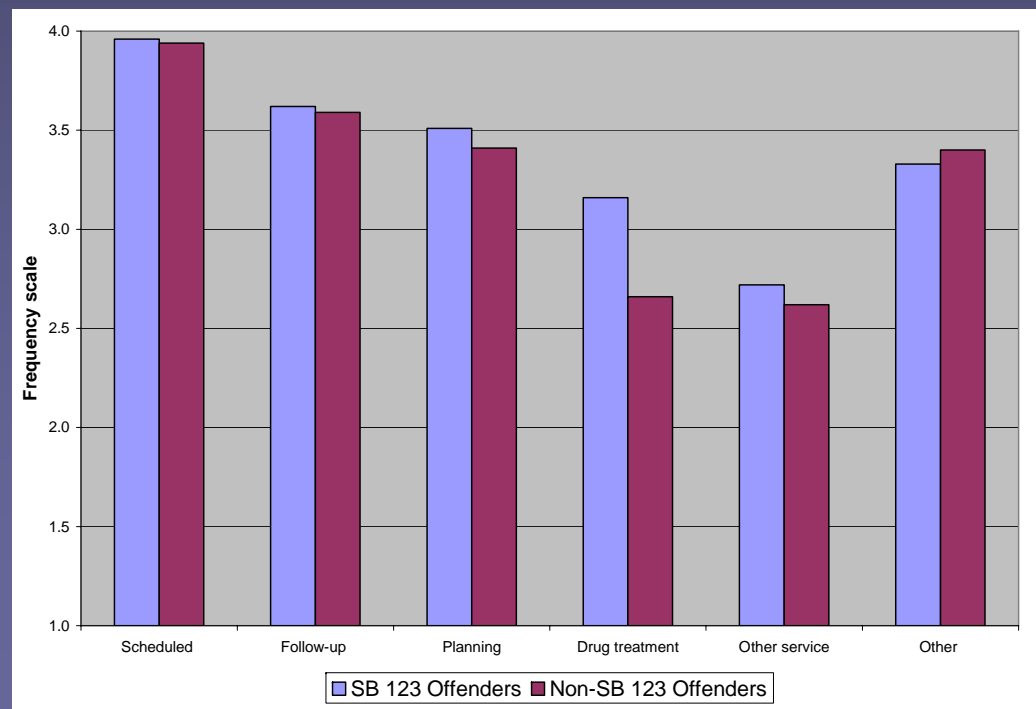


# SB 123 clients receive more services

## Probation officers

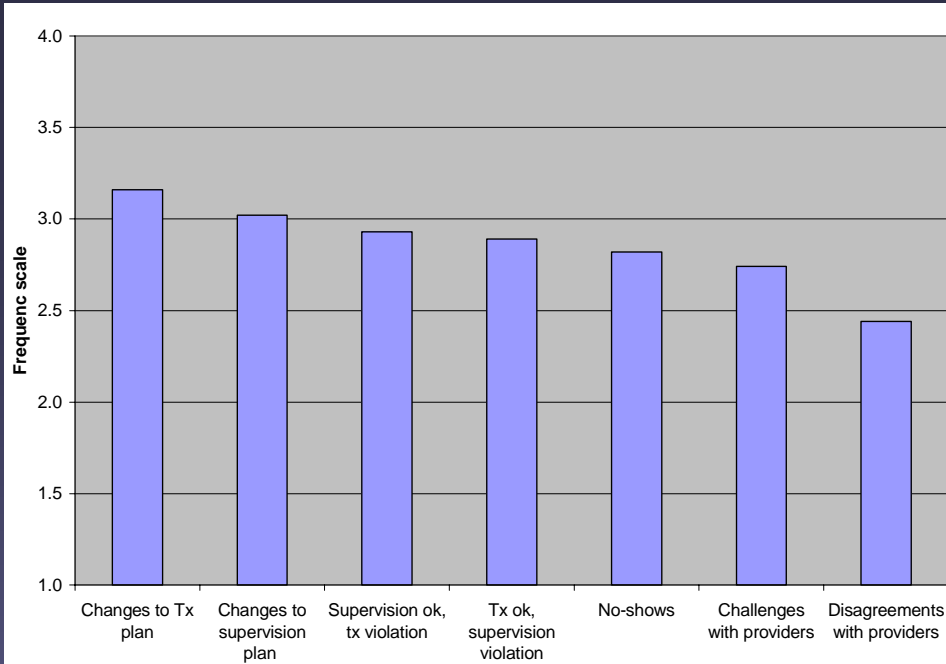


## Treatment counselors

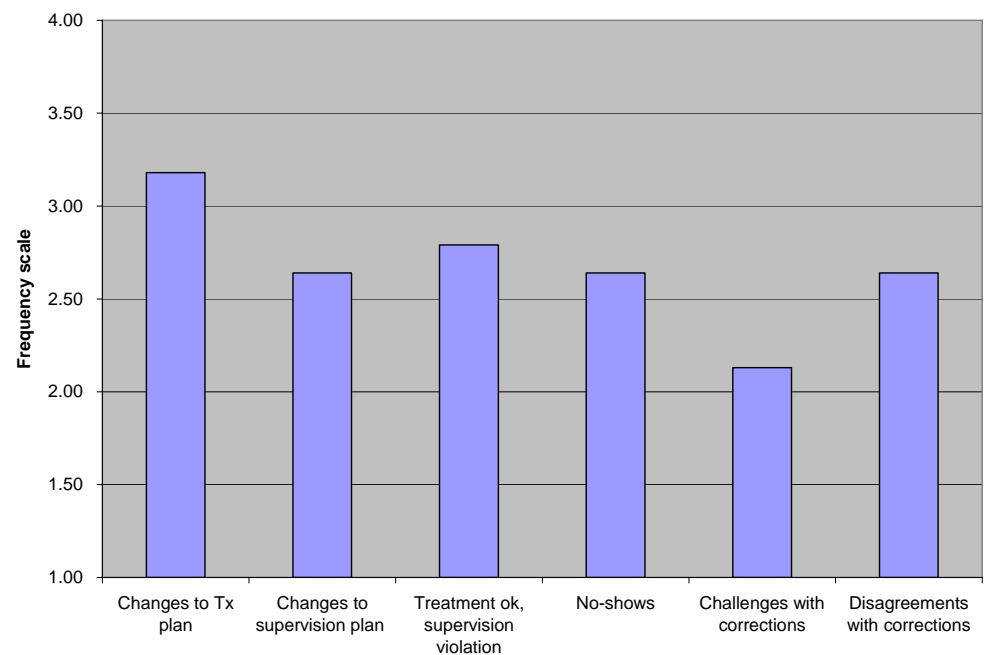


# SB 123 challenges

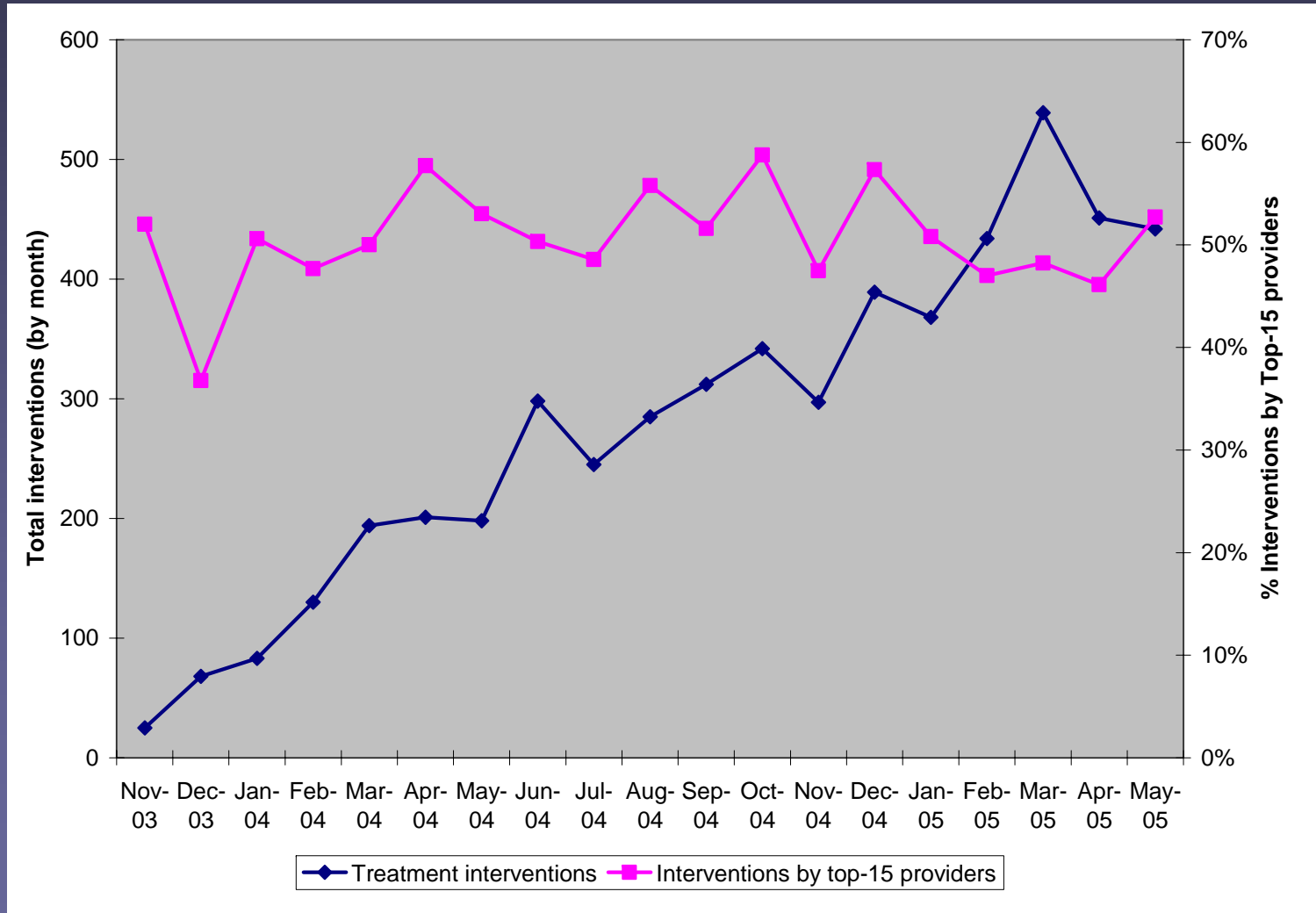
Probation officers



Treatment counselors



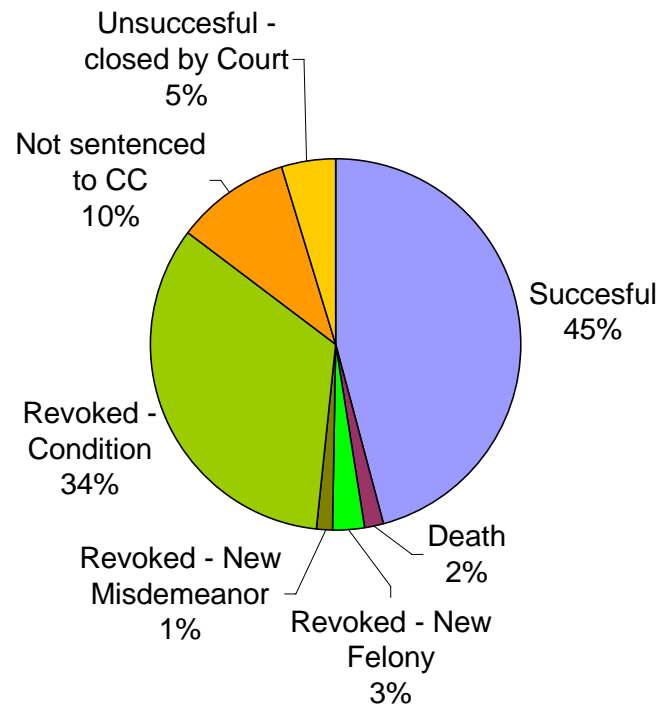
# Systemic issues: the concentration of treatment services



# Discharges for SB 123 clients and regular probationers

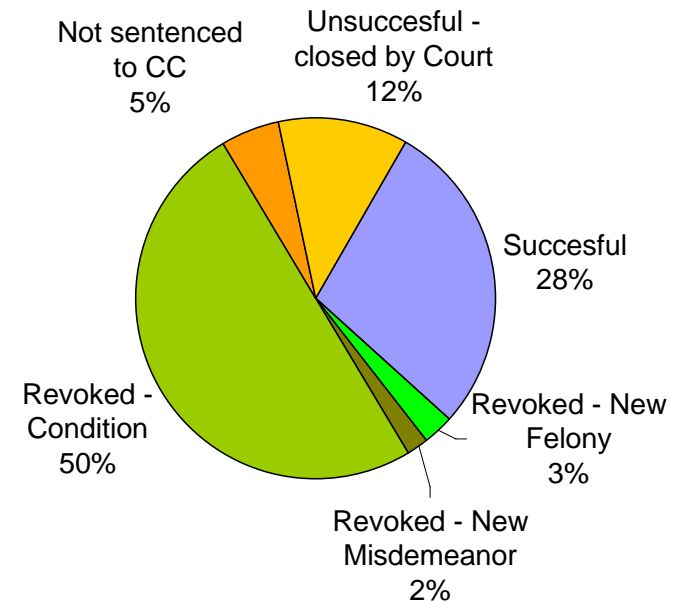
## SB 123 cases

N=280 terminations

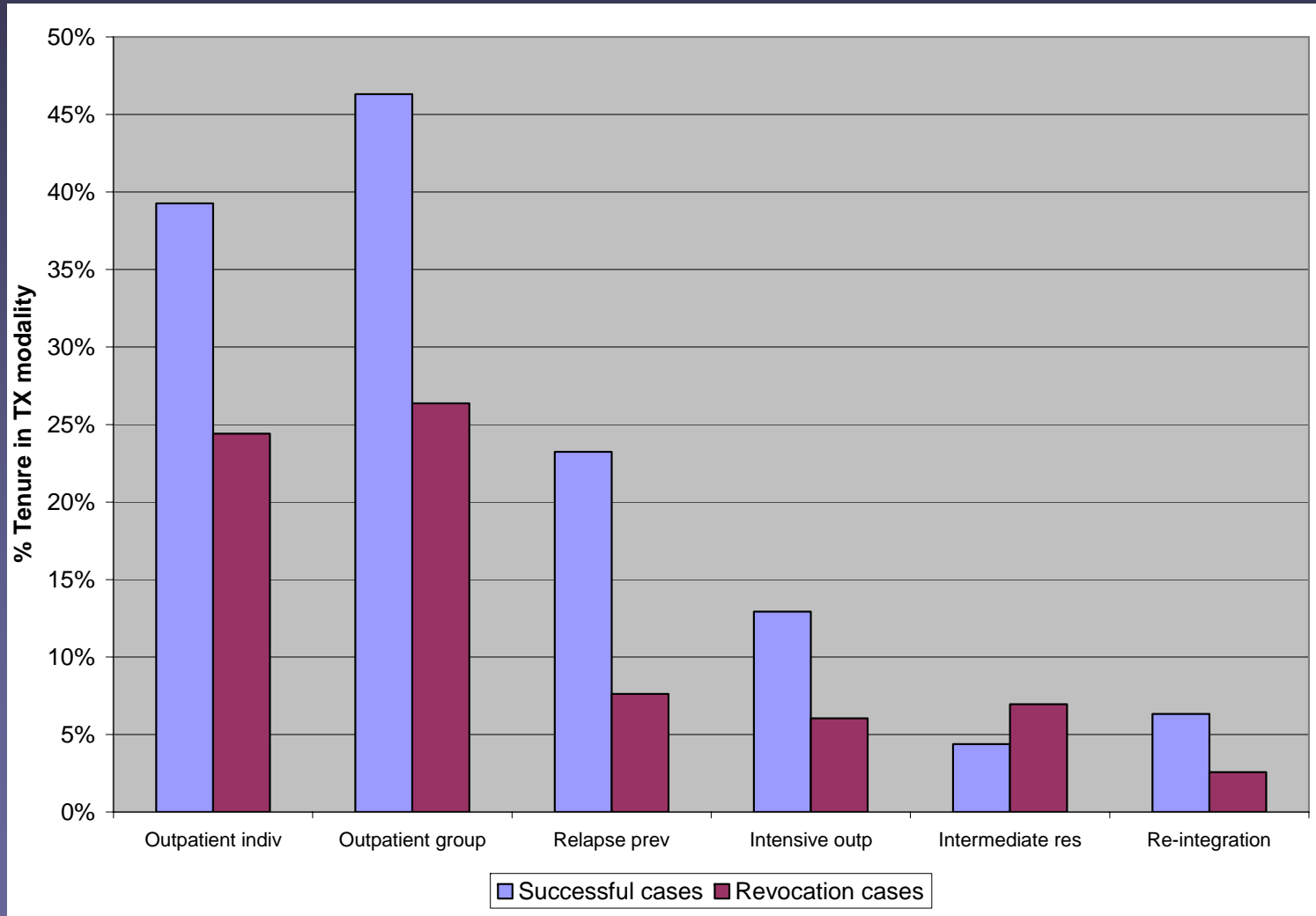


## Regular probation cases

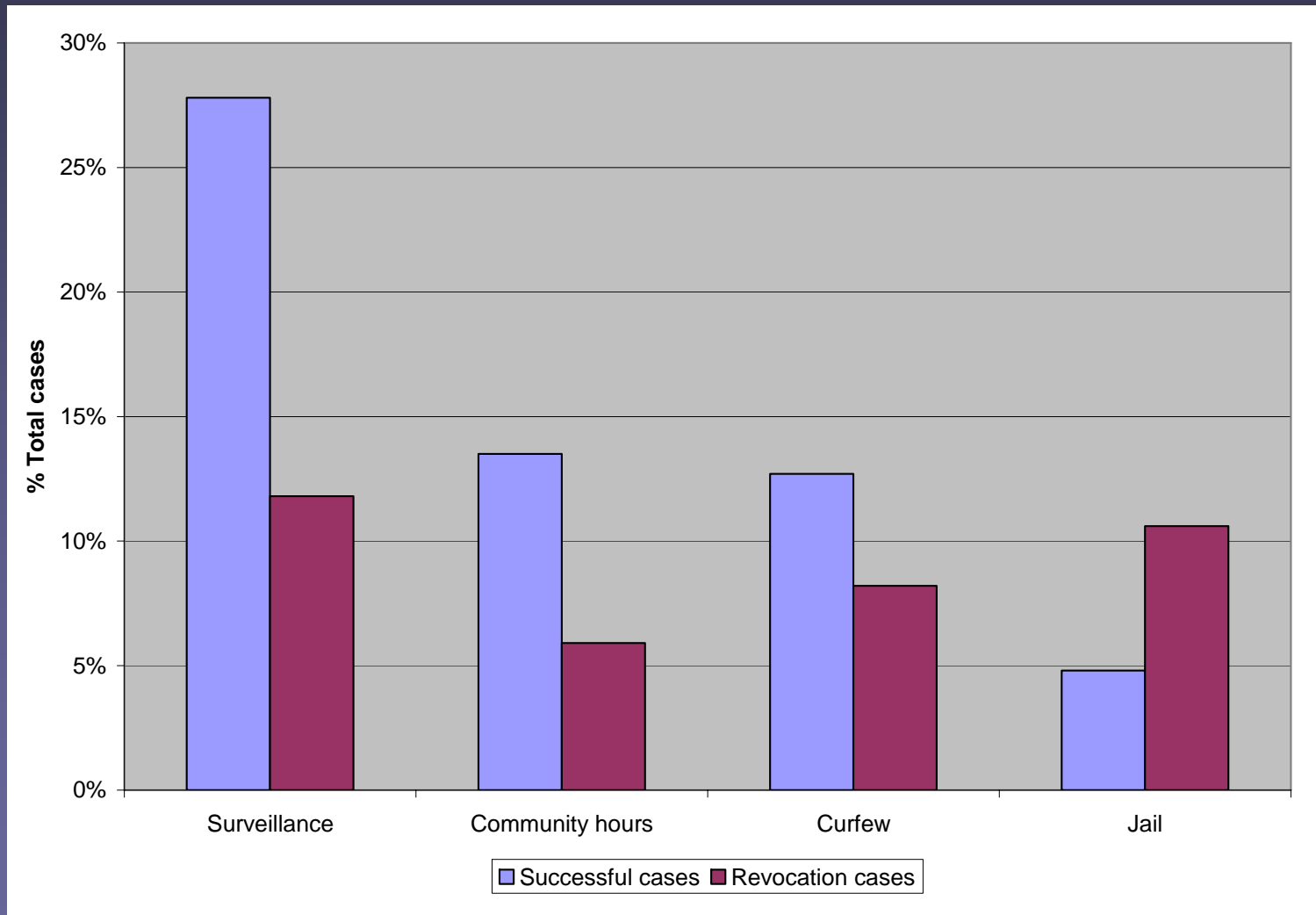
N=170 terminations



# Treatment interventions by type of discharge for SB 123 cases



# Supervision interventions by type of discharge for SB 123 cases



# Summary of findings I

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The number of offenders sentenced under SB 123 is growing steadily (11%) with no significant delays on processing. Overall, the system appears to be working properly, although there are several emerging challenges:

- Issues of determination of eligibility for SB 123
- Impact of local sentencing practices (urban vs. rural)
- Disparity in access to supervision and counseling services

# Summary of findings II

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Treatment is being delivered; we did not find quantitative evidence of an unbalance between Officers and Counselors regarding the design and follow-up of probation plans; however we found a disconnect between staff beliefs on “what works” and their actual recommendations to clients; some treatment decisions are being made on the basis of availability, cost and association with supervision processes.



# Opportunities for reform

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- Build connections with local county attorneys and judges on SB 123 processes and outcomes
- Enhance provision of services in rural areas (treatment and supervision)
- Re-examine administration and opportunity of assessments
- Review certification process for agencies and individual counselors